

The Presbyterian Colored Missions

Under the care of the Presbytery of Louisville, Ky.
Organized 1898

Rev. JOHN LITTLE, Superintendent
540 Roselane - - Louisville, Ky.

AT a business meeting of the Students' Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Louisville, November, 1897, the needs of the colored people were mentioned, and the suggestion made that a Sunday-school be organized for their instruction. Six students volunteered to



Rev. John Little, Supt.

teach in such a Sunday-school, and plans were formulated to begin the work. We thought it would be an easy matter to secure a house, but we found landlords very cautious about renting buildings for this purpose. Twenty-five vacant houses were inspected before one could be rented.

The house was formerly a lottery office, and was well known to the people of the neighborhood. This site was selected because it was in the midst of a densely settled Negro district. These Negroes were very poor, and day and night were exposed to vice. Saloons were on every corner; gambling places were numerous.

A definite site on Preston Street — a main thoroughfare — having been selected, the six teachers divided themselves into three groups, going two and two. Each group took a street and visited every house, and, in the tenement houses, every room. They gave a personal invitation to each member of the family to attend the services, and left a printed card, giving the name of the mission, the location, and the hours for services. This plan was persistently followed, until the building was crowded.

"If I Live and Nothing Happens"

In the homes we were well received and invited to come again, and we frequently had prayers with the family. In the majority of cases the family promised to attend the next Sunday, "If I live and nothing happens." In nine cases out of ten "something happened" to the parents, for very few of the older

people came to the mission in the early days. In later days they came in larger numbers.

The Doors were opened in February, 1898

and 23 Negro pupils were enrolled. Within a month the attendance had grown to 40. Our room was full and special efforts to secure a larger attendance ceased, and we tried to develop the character of those enrolled.

The first session of this Sunday-school revealed the great need of the people dwelling in this section of the city. Here we found hundreds of children, within the sound of church bells of white and colored churches, who never attended. The pupils were arranged as in an ordinary school. The singing was good, and this natural gift has been developed until the

music is excellent. The International Lesson was from Isaiah, eleventh chapter: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them." "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." It was impossible to teach this lesson to children who had no knowledge of a wolf, lamb, leopard, kid, calf, lion, and among whom the "knowledge of the Lord" was not spread abroad. Not a member of the class taught by the writer knew even the name Jesus Christ. The feel-



"ONE OF THE LEAST"